

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4394
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
INVESTIGATION OF COAL MINES ACCIDENTS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that the State police use to investigate coal mines accidents when as per law they are to deal with DGMS;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this matter has been taken up with the State Governments especially with the Government of Maharashtra.;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL & MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In some cases, the State police investigates coal mine accidents in parallel with DGMS enquiry.

(c) to (e): The matter was taken up at different levels with Government of Maharashtra by the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Coal & Mines .

The Ministry of Labour have clarified to the State Governments that while the police are free to carry out their mandatory duties under Criminal Procedure Code and to undertake such investigation as may be called for, it would be desirable that the officer in-charge awaits the reports of the Mines Inspectorate before filing the case in the court of law. Accordingly the Government of Maharashtra have circulated necessary instructions to their Districts and police authorities.